

RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL 1941.

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Vice Chairman of the Council: Robert Webster Esq.,

Chairman of the Health & Housing Committee:

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Clerk to the Council: Geo. Walker.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

S.C. Gawne, M.D. (State Medicine), B.S. Lond.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H., D.P.H.,

Sanitary Inspector:

Reginald C. Haycock, A.R.S.I., A.M. Inst. B.E.,
A.M. Inst. H.E.,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

RAINFORD.

June 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rainford Urban District Council.

Sirs,

I have the honour to submit to you the 51st Annual Report on the health of Rainford, being the report for the year ended 31st December 1941.

The report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 2604 of the Ministry of Health dated 24th March, 1942, in which it is asked that only a short report shall be presented without the inclusion of statistical details.

The general health of the district remained good throughout the year. Further progress has been made in the immunisation of the child population against diphtheria under the Council's Scheme, and it is gratifying to report that 89% of children under 5 years and 78% of school age have now completed a course of immunisation.

Work in connection with a scheme for improving the water supply to one part of the district has been completed and reference to this is made in the report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council my thanks are due for their encouragement and I would like once again to express my thanks to my fellow officials and members of the staff for their continued help and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

S.C.GAWNE.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area(acres)	5,877
Estimates population, mid year 1940.....	3,648
Number of inhabited houses(end of 1940) according to Rate Books	1,063
Rateable Value	£14,946
Product of a penny rate	£62.5.6

I. PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

There has been no change in the boundaries of the district during the year. An account of the physical features and social conditions of the district will be found in earlier reports.

II. VITAL STATISTICS.

For the duration of the war particulars of vital statistics will not be included in the Annual Report.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There have been no changes in the General Health Services during the year and particulars of the various services will be found in my Report for 1940.

The Child Welfare Centre continues to be well attended by mothers and their infants each week. It is pleasing to record that a very high proportion of the infants in Rainford are brought regularly to the Centre for weighing and observation.

IV. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:

Water is obtained from the St.Helens Corporation by agreement and the supply is satisfactory.

Samples of the water from the main at Mosboro were taken for examination and the analyst reported as follows:

Chemical Examination

Appearance	Clear, Bright.
Odour	Nil.
	<u>Parts per 100,000</u>
Free Ammonia	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.002
Chlorine	3.20
calculated as Common Salt	5.17
Permanent Hardness as CaCO_3	16.00
Temporary " " "	5.20
Total Solids	46.0
Nitrates	0.150
Nitrites	0.025
Oxygen consumed at 27°C	
in 15 mins.	Nil.
in 4 hours	Nil.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of Organisms per CC developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37°C	2
Number of Organisms per CC developed on Agar during 48 hours at 22°C	4
Coliform Organisms per 100ccs.	Absent
Streptococci Organisms per 100ccs	Absent
B.Welchii Organisms per 100ccs.	Absent

Remarks

From the results obtained by the Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations, I am of opinion that this water is suitable for drinking and all domestic purposes.



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After considering various schemes for improving the water supply to the North End of the district, where pressure had been bad for some time, owing to considerable increase in the consumption by large consumers in the village area, the Council decided that descaling should be carried out over a section of the main. The work has now been completed and has resulted in a greatly improved supply.

All the houses in Rainford are supplied from the mains with the exception of seven supplied by wells and one from a spring. Five of the latter houses can be supplied from the mains, should the private supply prove to be unsatisfactory.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations were carried out on samples of water from one of the wells. The results which are given in full below were regarded as unsatisfactory. Notice was given for the well to be closed, and arrangements made for a supply from the main to be laid on.

Chemical Examination

Appearance	Clear, Bright.
Odour	Nil.
	Parts per 100,000
Free Ammonia	0.0025
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0125
Chlorine	11.00
Calculated as Common Salt	18.19
Permanent Hardness as CaCO_3	25.2
Temporary " " "	2.9
Total solids	86.0
Nitrates	0.45
Nitrites	Nil
Oxygen consumed at 27°C	
in 15 mins.	0.029
in 4 hours	0.065

Bacteriological Examination

Number of organisms per cc developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37°C	5
Number of organisms per cc developed on Agar during 48 hours at 22°C	125
Coliform Organisms per 100 ccs	6
Faecal Coli per 100 ccs	3

In his report the analyst remarks: "From the description of the Source and the results obtained by the Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations I am of opinion that this water is unsafe for drinking purposes."

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

A full account of the sewerage systems in Rainford will be found in the Annual Report for 1937.

Closet Accommodation:

It has not been possible to procure as many conversions of privy middens as in normal times, and during the year only one conversion to water closet was effected.

The elimination of the remaining privy middens remains the main sanitary requirement in the district.

Public Cleansing:

No alteration in the system of public cleansing has taken place during the year. Full details were given in the reports for previous years.

Shops:

The Shops Act 1934, is enforced by the County Council. The provisions of the Act, however, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences are administered by the Urban District Council. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:

For several years there has been no evidence of the infestation of houses with bed bugs within the district.

When tenants are removed into new Council Houses due measures are taken for the detection of bed bugs.

V. SCHOOLS

The school children in the Rainford Urban District are inspected by the School Medical Department of the Lancashire County Council. The fact that the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health responsible for this work is

also Medical Officer of Health for the District is effective from the point of view of public health administration. Not only is a full knowledge of the people and the needs of the district of great help at the examination of the children, but prompt action can be taken in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer and the teachers, and much use is made of the returns of sick children forwarded by the School Attendance Officer each week.

Exclusion of scholars is carried out in accordance with the Board of Education's Memorandum.

School Closure:

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools during the year.

Health Services for Schools:

A School Clinic has been provided by the County Council at the Council Offices. Children may attend here for inspection and treatment of minor ailments, eye and ear defects, and dental caries.

The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows:

Tuesday 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Dental Surgeon attends.
(Mr. Linnell).

Friday 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Minor Ailments. (Nurse Melia)

School Feeding:

The milk in schools scheme of the Milk Marketing Board continues in operation.

Samples of milk delivered to each school are taken quarterly for pathological examination for tuberculosis at

the request of the County Council. The samples in 1939 all proved satisfactory.

Cleanliness:

A comprehensive survey of the children in the schools was carried out during 1941, in order to determine the incidence of verminous infestation, and a report was later submitted to the Council. Some 15% of the girls, and 1% of the boys were found to be infested. These figures, whilst comparing favourably with conditions prevailing in industrial towns, reveal the fact that there is need for great care in the personal hygiene of the children. In particular, the care of hair in the case of girls demands continuous attention. Parents are interviewed by the School Doctor or Nurse in every case where verminous infestation is found and written instructions are provided for the guidance of the parent.

VI. HOUSING

The general standard of housing in the district is good, but there are many houses varying in age up to 200 years, which suffer from dampness, poor ventilation and lack of suitable provision for the storage of food.

Since the outbreak of hostilities, it has not been possible to carry out the normal routine inspection of houses in the District. The staff available in normal times was limited, and extra duties, such as A.R.P., have now prohibited such inspections.

VII. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply:

On the 31st December 1941 there were registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order 1926: -

- 5 persons as cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk;
- 13 persons as cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk;
- 2 persons as purveyors of milk.

There are in the district approximately 70 cows kept for dairy purposes.

It is desirable that regular visits should be paid to dairies and cowsheds by the Sanitary Staff. Unfortunately, these cannot be carried out because of the many duties connected with war work which fall to the Sanitary Inspector, who is also Surveyor.

Meat & Other Foods:

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection: There were no slaughter houses in operation in the District during the year.

VIII. FACTORY & WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, & FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

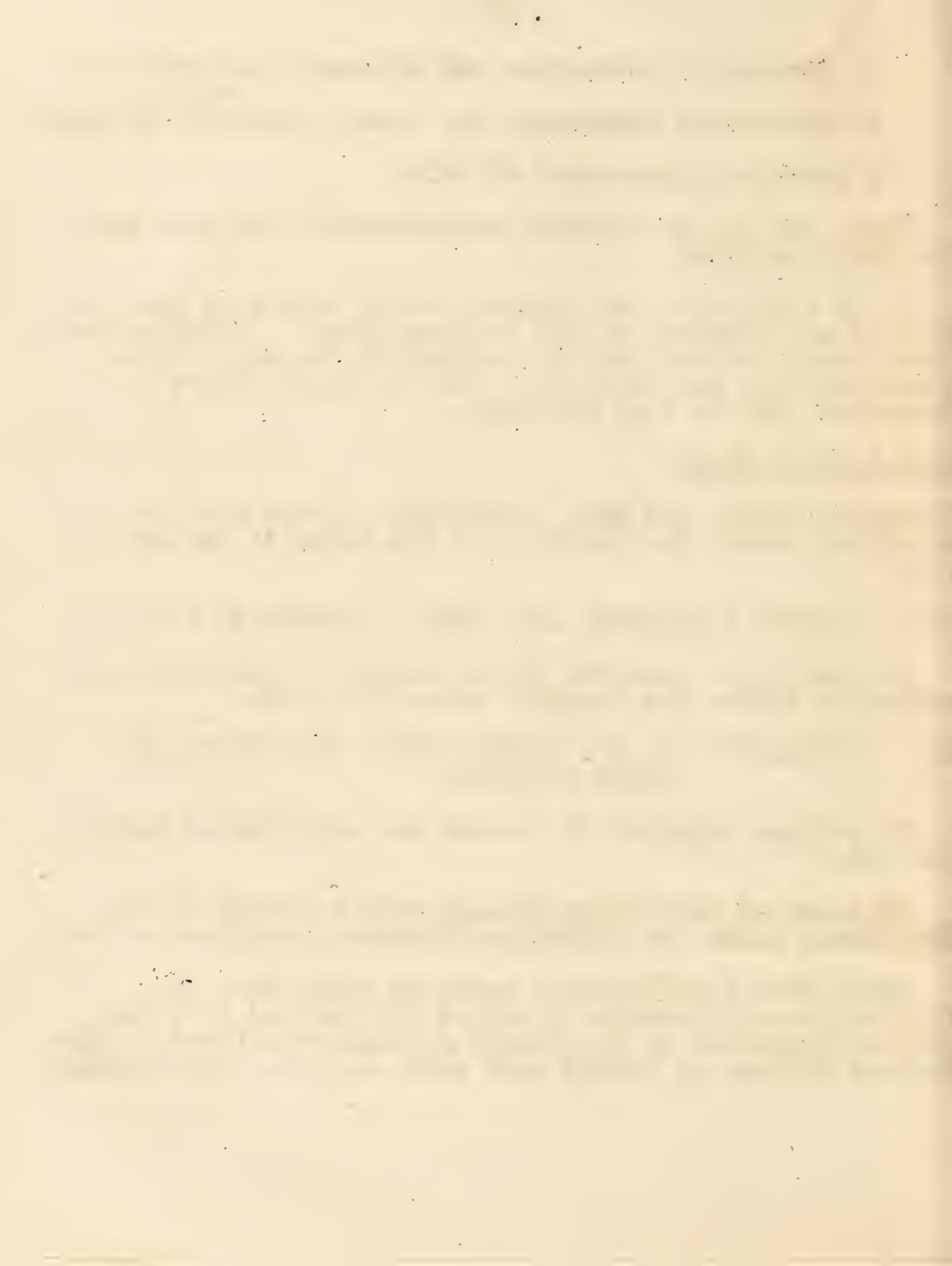
No change has occurred in the number of factories and workshops within the district since last year.

IX. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No serious outbreak of disease was experienced during the year.

46 cases of infectious disease were notified to the Department under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

Apart from notifications received under this Act, information of sickness in school is obtained from the returns forwarded by the School Attendance Officer to the Medical Officer of Health each week, and the head teachers



of the schools inform the School Nurse at her routine visits to school of those children who are absent from school, and suspected of infectious or contagious disease. In this way, valuable knowledge of the incidence of infectious disease is acquired, so that it is possible to take prompt measures to combat the spread of such sickness.

Scarlet Fever:

6 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year.

Diphtheria:

8 cases of diphtheria were notified during 1941. Of these, 2 had previously undergone prophylactic treatment. A careful enquiry was made into these cases. Reports from the Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital shewed that in every case where pre-immunisation had been attempted the disease pursued a mild course without complications. The fact that clinical diphtheria occasionally occurs in children who have completed a course of immunisation does not detract from the value of immunisation work generally. It is acknowledged that a very small percentage of children fail to acquire a complete active immunity to diphtheria, either by natural or artificial means. Where prophylactic treatment fails to prevent the onset of the disease, it may succeed in mitigating the symptoms.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING
THE YEAR 1941.

Disease	Total cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & Over
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Diphtheria	8	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	1	1	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	18	1	4	-	2	4	6	-	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	1	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	46	4	7	3	3	5	13	1	1	8	-	1	-

There were no deaths.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

A most encouraging response has been obtained to the Council's scheme for the free immunisation of children in the Urban District against diphtheria, which was put into operation in November 1938.

The tables given below show the number of children who have been immunised since the Scheme was instituted. The campaign is being continued and every effort made to secure the treatment of the pre-school child.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	Total
Under 1 year.	-	1	2	3	under 5
1 year.	2	14	9	36	years at
2 years.	5	11	11	22	end of
3 years.	10	5	4	9	1941.
4 years.	12	7	11	15	<u>139</u>
5 years.	21	13	4	11	
6 years.	31	13	4	11	
7 years.	24	9	5	5	Between
8 years.	25	5	5	2	5 & 9.
9 years.	28	11	2	5	<u>189</u>
10 years.	35	6	5	6	
11 years.	27	4	2	6	Between
12 years.	29	3	2	2	10 & 14.
13 years.	21	3	2	1	194
14 years.	1	-	-	-	
15 yrs. & over.	1	-	-	-	
	<u>272</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>134</u>	- <u>579</u>

Of great help is the continued co-operation of the head teachers of the five schools.

The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health or Assistant County Medical Officer, assisted by the School Nurse, and records are kept by the Medical Officer's Clerk.

The treatment of school children is carried out at the schools. Children of pre-school age are treated either at the schools or at the Child Welfare Centre and School Clinic.

Anterior Schick testing has not been undertaken.

Alum-precipitated toxoid is the standard immunising agent used. Two doses are given subcutaneously into the upper arm, an interval of at least 4 weeks intervening between the two. The first injection amounts to 0.2 c.c. and the second 0.5 c.c.

It is most unusual for any reactions to occur in children under 8 years of age. Over this age slight local reactions have occasionally been noticed after the first "detector" dose of 0.2 c.c. and in these cases immunisation treatment is completed with Toxoid-Antitoxin Floccules. It is exceptional for any reaction to occur after T.A.F.

Immunity is acquired after some 2 or 3 months after the last injection.

Posterior Schick Testing has been omitted. Experience has shewn that with the use of A.P.T. as an immunising agent, posterior schick testing is unnecessary.

Immunising material is supplied free of cost to practitioners in the district upon request.

Tuberculosis:

There were no deaths among non-notified cases of Tuberculosis during the year.

The County Council are responsible for the provision of dispensaries, sanatoria and home visiting for Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary for residents in the Rainford District is in Hardshaw Street, St. Helens. Patients may be referred there with a note from their own doctor or by the School Medical Officer and Medical Officer in charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Notification of Tuberculosis is very complete and satisfactory.

